a.) Amendment to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A process for producing an amino acid, which comprises the steps of:

culturing, in a medium, a microorganism expressing a heterologous DNA encoding NADH dehydrogenase in which the number of protons discharged per electron is zero, said DNA being selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15, or a DNA which hybridizes, under stringent conditions, with a DNA having a nucleotide sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of a DNA selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15,

forming and accumulating an amino acid in a culture, and

recovering the amino acid from the culture,

wherein said stringent condition comprise hybridization at 65°C in the presence of 0.7 to 1.0 mol/l NaCl on a filter having fixed DNA followed by washing at 65°C using 0.1 to 2-fold SSC.

2. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the DNA encoding NADH dehydrogenase is derived from a microorganism selected from the group consisting of *Corynebacterium, Escherichia, Pseudomonas, Azotobacter, Salmonella* and *Lactobacillus*, or a DNA which hybridizes, under said stringent conditions,

with a DNA having a nucleotide sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of the DNA.

3. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the DNA encoding NADH dehydrogenase is derived from a microorganism selected from the group consisting of *Corynebacterium glutamicum, Corynebacterium diphtheriae, Escherichia coli, Pseudomonas fluorescens, Azotobacter vinelandii, Salmonella typhimurium* and *Lactobacillus plantarum*, or a DNA which hybridizes, under said stringent conditions, with a DNA having a nucleotide sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of the DNA.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

5. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the DNA encoding NADH dehydrogenase is within the plasmid pCS-CGndh within *Escherichia coli* DH5α/pCS-CGndh or a DNA which hybridizes, under said stringent conditions, with a DNA having a nucleotide sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of the DNA.

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the NADH dehydrogenase is a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting SEQ ID NOs: 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16, or a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence wherein 1 to 20 amino acid residues are deleted, substituted or added in the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide.

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the NADH dehydrogenase is encoded by DNA ~~possessed by~~ comprised in a plasmid pCS-CGndh within *Escherichia coli* DH5α/pCS-CGndh or a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence wherein 1 to 20 amino acid residues are deleted, substituted or added in the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide.

8. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the microorganism ~~into which the DNA encoding NADH dehydrogenase is introduced~~ is selected from the group consisting of *Escherichia, Corynebacterium, Brevibacterium, Arthrobacter, Aureobacterium, Cellulomonas, Clavibacter, Curtobacterium, Microbacterium, Pimerobacter* and *Bacillus*.

9. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the microorganism ~~into which the DNA encoding NADH dehydrogenase is introduced~~ belongs to the genus *Escherichia*.

10. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the microorganism ~~into which the DNA encoding NADH dehydrogenase is introduced~~ belongs to the species *Escherichia coli*.

11. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the microorganism ~~into which the DNA encoding NADH dehydrogenase is introduced~~ belongs to the genus *Corynebacterium*.

12. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the microorganism ~~into which the DNA encoding NADH dehydrogenase is introduced~~ is selected from the group consisting of *Corynebacterium glutamicum, Corynebacterium flavum, Corynebacterium lactofermentum*, and *Corynebacterium efficasis*.

13. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the microorganism ~~into which the DNA encoding NADH dehydrogenase is introduced~~ belongs to the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

14. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the amino acid is selected from the group consisting of L-glutamic acid, L-glutamine, L-

aspartic acid, L-asparagine, L-lysine, L-methionine, L-threonine, L-arginine, L-proline, L-citrulline, L-valine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine, L-serine, L-cysteine, glycine, ~~L-triptophan, L-thyrosine,~~ L-tryptophan, L-tyrosine, L-phenylalanine and L-histidine.

15. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the amino acid is selected from the group consisting of L-glutamic acid, L-glutamine and L-lysine.

Claims 16-26 (Cancelled).